



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 105th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 144

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 1998

No. 124

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

The Reverend Thomas Pappalas, Sts. Constantine & Helen Greek Orthodox Church, Reading, Pennsylvania, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray. Almighty God and Creator, guide, I pray, all the nations and their leaders in the ways of justice and peace. Protect us all from the evils of injustice, prejudice, hatred, terrorism, conflict and war. Father, bless this Nation and this Nation's people and unite us in the making and sharing of weapons of peace, helping us to combat ignorance, poverty, disease and oppression. Bless our President, William Jefferson Clinton, our national leaders, and most especially the men and women gathered this day. Heavenly Father, guide them and fill them with Your Holy Spirit. Help them to be wise, just and compassionate in the fulfilling of their responsibilities. And, Lord, bless us all, forgive us our sins, and have mercy on our souls. Dear Lord, we give thanks and glory to You, forever and ever, to the ages of ages. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. GUTKNECHT) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. GUTKNECHT led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOMING FATHER TOM PAPPALAS

(Mr. HOLDEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HOLDEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank you and Reverend Ford for allowing my constituent, Father Tom Pappalas, the pastor of Sts. Constantine & Helen Greek Orthodox Church in Reading, Pennsylvania, to offer the opening prayer this morning.

My predecessor, who served in this body with honor and distinction for 24 years, Gus Yatron, is one of Father Tom's parishioners.

Father Tom is truly a spiritual leader in Berks County. He has twice served as president of the Berks County Clergy Association. Father Tom was born in Chicago, Illinois and served in the United States Navy from 1969 to 1971. He graduated from Hellenic College in 1978 and Holy Cross School of Theology in 1981. He and his wife Ann are the proud parents of three children, and I thank Father Tom for his spiritual guidance this morning.

REMEMBERING THE 211TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SIGNING OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES

(Mr. GINGRICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GINGRICH. I wanted to share with my colleagues that this is the 211th anniversary of the signing of the Constitution of the United States. I think all of us should pause and reflect on that.

Over 200 years ago, a relatively small group of the Founding Fathers, led by George Washington, whose portrait hangs here, by Jefferson, Adams, Madison, Hamilton, Franklin, 55 people met in Philadelphia. They drafted a docu-

ment which has lasted longer than any other Constitution in the modern world.

They created a framework of self-government with balanced rules, and they determined once and for all that the age of kings was over; that all men and women are under the law. None is above it and none is below it, and all deserve the protection of a free judiciary within the rule of law which is established through a pattern of free speech and free elections.

I just thought today was a good day for all of us to remember that we are the heirs to a great tradition, and it is our job to safeguard that tradition to give our children the constitutional liberties we have known.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). The Chair announces there will be 15 1-minutes per side.

DEMOCRATIC CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE WILL FUND NO CANDIDATE WHO INITIATES PERSONAL ATTACKS ON OPPONENTS

(Mr. FROST asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, this morning I am joining with my colleague, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. JOHN LINDER), the chairman of the Republican Campaign Committee. I serve as chairman of the Democratic Campaign Committee. We are announcing a policy of the two committees.

The level of public discourse in this country right now cannot continue at the depth that it has fallen to. While we cannot control what goes on outside this Chamber, the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee and our Republican counterpart will not fund

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



Printed on recycled paper.

H7925